

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraph starting on page 2, line 15 with the following paragraph:**

To solve the above problems, Japanese Laid-open Patent Application No. 11-292360 suggests a copying machine that is provided with an automatic pre-cutting device for making the pre-cutting process automatically when the printer is turned on first after a new roll of recording paper is loaded therein. When loading a copying machine with a new roll, an operator pulls out a leading end of a paper. A cover is closed with this leading end of the paper being out of the copying machine. Pre-cutting process is performed when a pre-cutting sensor detects this leading end of the paper. After the pre-cutting process, the cut leading end of the paper is drawn out by hand from the cover, so the copying machine is ready to perform a copying action. Moreover, since detection of the leading end of the paper stops the pre-cutting sensor, the pre-cutting process is not performed again while the copying machine is loaded with the roll. When drawing out of the leading end of the paper has been forgotten, the pre-cutting sensor continues detecting the leading end of the paper.